

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 00670 141312Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 DHA-02 SCA-01 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 PC-01 OMB-01 /084 W
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R 141140Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5187
INFO AMCONSUL CAPETOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
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USUN NEW YORK 1201

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CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, RH
SUBJ: PRESS ALLEGATIONS THAT RHODESIAN SECURITY FORCES
RESPONSIBLE FOR MURDER OF MISSIONARIES.

SUMMARY: GOVERNMENT-OWNED DAILY MAIL MARCH 14 CARRIED TWO
FRONT PAGE STORIES AND AN EDITORIAL ALL ASSIGNING RESPON-
SIBILITY FOR THE RECENT MISSIONARY SLAYINGS IN RHODESIA
TO THE RHODESIAN SECURITY FORCES. DAVID MARTIN IN AN
ARTICLE PRESENTS HIS FINDINGS FROM RECENT TELEPHONE
CONVERSATIONS WITH RELIGIOUS SOURCES IN RHODESIA. THERE
IS A REUTERS ACCOUNT OF THE STORY OF GORDON THOMAS WOOD,
WHICH APPEARED IN THE MARCH 13 LONDON PRESS ACCUSING
THE SELOUS SCOUTS OF THE MURDERS AT ST. PAUL'S MISSION.
EDITORIAL RECOUNTS ITS EARLIER EXPRESSION OF DOUBT
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PAGE 02 LUSAKA 00670 141312Z

ABOUT THE RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT CLAIMS THE MISSIONARIES
WERE KILLED BY LIBERATION FIGHTERS AND CITES CURRENT
PRESS STORIES AS ILLUSTRATING THAT THE FULL STORY OF
THE SLAYINGS IS GRADUALLY COMING INTO THE OPEN.
END SUMMARY.

1. IN A SPECIAL ARTICLE TO THE MAIL, DAVID MARTIN OF THE

OBSERVER, SETS OUT THE REPLIES HE RECEIVED FROM TELEPHONE INQUIRIES TO RELIGIOUS GROUPS AND REPRESENTATIVES IN RHODESIA LAST WEEK. IN SUM, THESE RESPONSES ARE NOT CATEGORICAL STATEMENTS THAT RHODESIAN SECURITY FORCES WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE KILLINGS OF MISSIONARIES, BUT RATHER EXPRESSIONS OF SKEPTICISM ABOUT THE REGIME'S STORY THAT THE LIBERATION FIGHTERS WERE RESPONSIBLE. MARTIN'S SOURCES ENCOURAGE HIM TO PURSUE THE STORY. ARTICLE INFERS THAT SELOUS SCOUTS ARE RESPONSIBLE AND QUESTIONS WHY THE NATIONALISTS, WHO HAVE THE SYMPATHY OF MANY OF THE RELIGIOUS GROUPS, WOULD KILL THEIR SUPPORTERS. MARTIN WRITES THAT THE RHODESIAN SECURITY FORCES ARE MOUNTING A PUBLIC RELATIONS CAMPAIGN TO REBUT CHARGES THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE. SET AGAINST THE CURRENT COMMANDER OF THE SELOUS SCOUTS' BENIAL THAT THE SCOUTS POSE AS NATIONALISTS, MARTIN RECALLS THAT FIFTEEN MONTHS AGO A SENIOR RHODESIAN ARMY OFFICIAL TOLD HIM THAT THE SCOUTS DID OPERATE AS "PSUEDO GANGS".

2. IN THE REUTERS ACCOUNT OF A MARCH 13 LONDON SUNDAY PEOPLE STORY, GORDON THOMAS WOOD, A FORMER RHODESIAN SOLDIER IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT HE HAD PROOF THE SELOUS SCOUTS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR KILLING MISSIONARIES.

3. DAILY MAIL EDITORIAL RECALLS ITS EARLIER WARNING THAT THE PUBLIC SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN IN BY THE SMITH GOVERNMENT'S LINKING OF THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS WITH THE MURDERS OF MISSIONARIES. EDITORIAL OBSERVES IT HAS BEEN OBVIOUS THAT THE SELOUS SCOUTS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR KILLING THE MISSIONARIES. THIS IS SLOWLY COMING INTO THE OPEN AND CITES THE ARTICLES IN PARAS 1 AND 2 AS EVIDENCE OF THIS. NOW THAT THE WORLD IS INTERESTED

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PAGE 03 LUSAKA 00670 141312Z

IN THE TRUE IDENTITY OF THE MURDERERS THE EDITORIAL EXPECTS THAT IT MAY NOT BE LONG BEFORE THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN RHODESIA DISCLOSES EVERYTHING IN A STATEMENT IT HAS BEEN HOLDING FOR WEEKS. THESE DISCLOSURES WILL BE IMPORTANT BECAUSE THEY WILL CONVINCE THOSE WHO DOUBT SMITH'S CAPACITY TO ORDER AND CARRY OUT ATROCITIES. LOW

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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 14-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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